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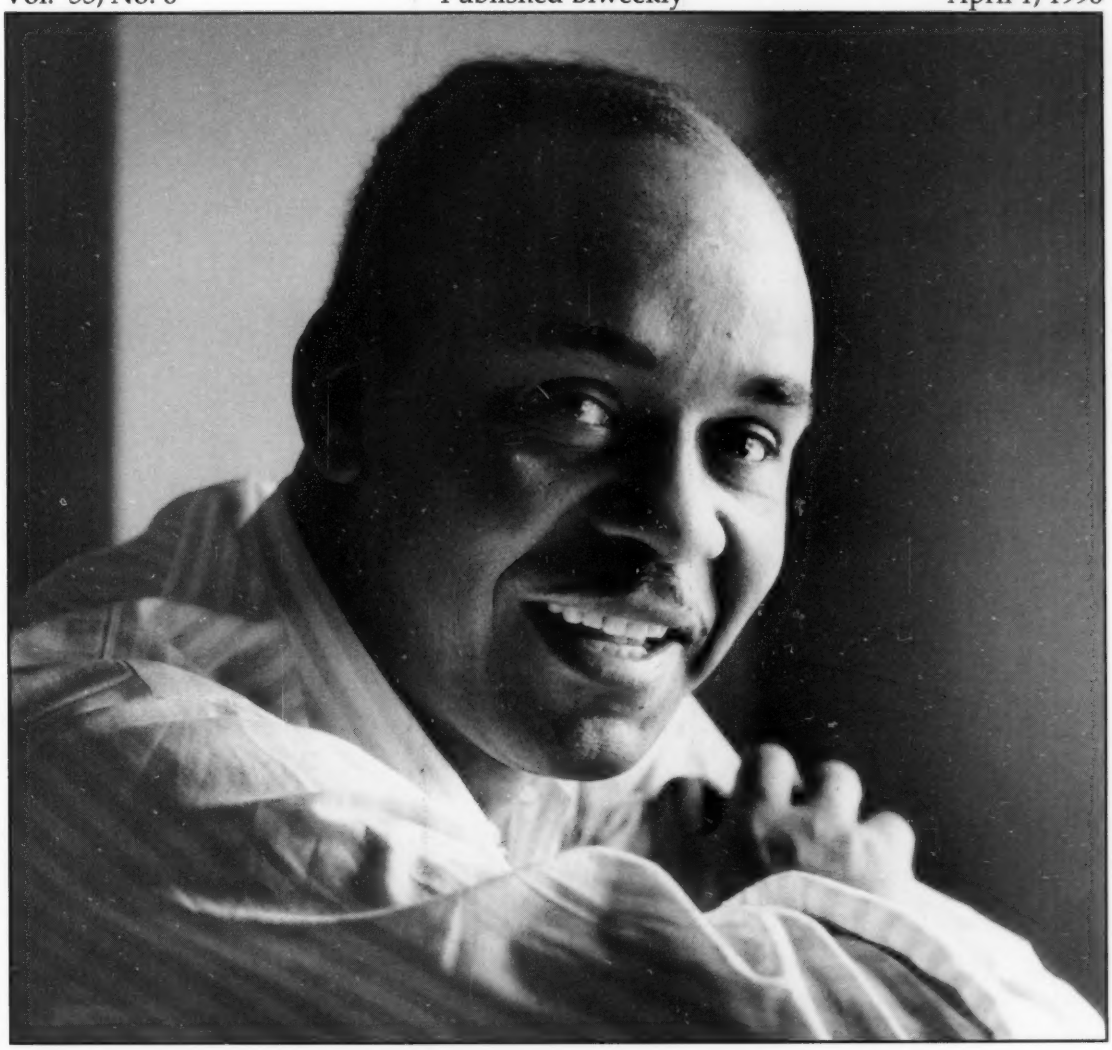

Ralph Ellison Made Visible

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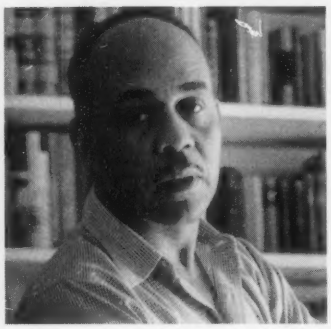
JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress



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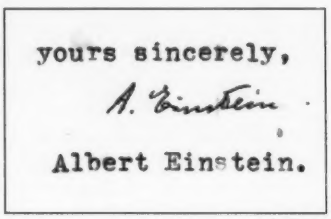

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GUY LAMOLINARA, Editor
JOHN J. KOZAR, Publisher

Senate Committee Hears CRS Testimony

The Senate Rules and Administration Committee gave the Congressional Research Service (CRS) high marks during an oversight hearing Wednesday, March 20, for its ability to continue to deliver timely, high-quality, unbiased and nonpartisan information to members of Congress — even amid heavy workloads and decreasing budgets.

"I don't know of anything here in the Congress that contributes more to our daily work than CRS," said Sen. John Warner (R-Va.), chairman of the committee, which met in Room 301 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

"In my 20 years in Congress I have come to rely on CRS for its high-quality, nonpartisan research and analysis," said Ranking Minority Member Wendell H. Ford (D-Ky.).

CRS Director Daniel P. Mulhollan testified before the panel along with two groups of CRS experts. They all answered questions from Sens. Warner and Ford during the two-hour hearing, which Sen. Warner called "part of Operation Daylight, to let everyone know how the Congress operates."

During the question-and-answer period, Sen. Warner asked Mr. Mulhollan, "Given your experience and our efforts . . . how do you maintain your independence and nonpartisanship? . . . This is a very important issue, given the presidential campaign and congressional election this fall."

"It's our trademark and our reputation. . . . We have built it into our work. It's part of our profession — we have objectivity as a goal and as an organizational culture. . . . We have to ensure that all major viewpoints are considered. We do this through the expert staff we have at CRS. When we use information and analysis from outside sources, we have to scrutinize that analysis and assure its accuracy," Mr. Mulhollan said.

During his testimony, Mr. Mulhollan said, "As policymakers, members of Congress need to know and understand the supporting and countervailing choices that surround every legislative proposal that occupies them. Whether to engage in debate on the floor of the chamber, to participate in committee or subcommittee deliberations, or to respond at a town meeting with constituents, members must be conversant with all sides of an issue — both to allow them to make the best case for their position as well as to anticipate and respond effectively to counter-arguments.

Daniel Mulhollan, director of CRS: Independence "is our trademark and our reputation"

"It is imperative that the Congress have ready access to analysis, research and information from a source that is reliably independent and objective, not only by tradition, but as a product of explicit direction in its statutory charter. CRS was created by you to provide that independent support and it is our vision that the Congress will turn to us first whenever it has such needs," Mr. Mulhollan said.

Mr. Mulhollan reviewed some of the domestic and foreign policy issues that CRS information specialists, economists, foreign and social policy experts, scientists, lawyers, legislative procedure specialists and other policy analysts as well as librarians, bibliographers and others continue to provide information on, such as: welfare reform, telecommunications, education, the balanced budget constitutional amendment, the line-item veto, term limits, immigration and banking and securities laws.

"In matters of foreign policy we have assisted on Bosnia, the role and structure of NATO, the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, changes in Russia, aid to Africa and Mexico's financial crisis," Mr. Mulhollan said.

Mr. Mulhollan told the panel that CRS has reassigned staff, both organizationally and in subject areas, to manage losses resulting from attrition. CRS also has used information technology to improve its efficiency and effectiveness, he said, in the face of the budget constraints of recent years.

"We have made organizational changes to maximize the number of staff providing direct service to the Congress and we have also made use of contracts and volunteer services where appropriate," he said.

"These and other efforts have forestalled some reductions in service that might otherwise have been necessary. Nevertheless, in consultation with the Congress, we have made necessary decisions to curtail or reduce some services. And while we regret any such reductions, I believe that we have made sound choices under the prevailing circumstances — ones selected to minimize direct impact on our ability to provide broad support to Congress. However, if CRS is asked to become smaller still, we will face additional difficult choices, further affecting the level of our services," Mr. Mulhollan said.

Mr. Mulhollan said that in FY 1995, CRS sent 785,000 copies of CRS reports and other general distribution products to members of Congress and prepared more than 3,000 confidential memoranda. CRS handled 600,000 research responses and services to the Congress.

By way of comparison, in FY 1993, when CRS was beginning to collect statistical data on the volume of its product distribution, CRS sent out 502,000 reports and other general distribution products and prepared more than 2,000 confidential memoranda. The number of research responses and services to Congress in FY 1993 was about the same as FY 1995: a total of 616,000.

"Over the last four years, CRS funding levels have resulted in a cut of 84 full-time equivalent positions — a loss of one out of every 10 of our staff. In the first two months of this year alone, we have lost analysts in foreign policy and international security, corporate finance and securities, defense policy, oil and gas resources and environmental policy. None of them will be replaced if we receive level funding for fiscal year 1997.

"Many of our losses truly threaten our ability to maintain coverage in subject areas of recurring congressional interest. And as we come down in overall staff levels, I must tell you that our ability to maintain the valued services which have characterized our assistance in the past, is seriously threatened.

"If we are to provide the continuity that the Congress expects, we must constantly bring on new staff as veteran experts retire. The significance of these losses is magnified if our resident experts depart without the opportunity to pass on acquired knowledge and institutional memory directly to replacements. If we are to successfully perform our mission, we must literally teach the ways of the legislature to our staff in order to ensure that our contributions best inform the legislative process," Mr. Mulhollan said.

Two panels of CRS experts spoke after Mr. Mulhollan testified. Both panels, Mr. Mulhollan said, are models of the levels of expertise throughout CRS.

The first panel, on Medicare and Medicaid, was led by Specialist in Social Legislation Richard Price. Members of the panel were: Melvina Ford, specialist in social legislation; Jennifer O'Sullivan, specialist in social legislation; Kathleen Swendiman, legislative attorney; and Heidi Yacker, information specialist.

Mr. Price said the Medicare/Medicaid team responded to more than 7,500 requests in calendar year 1995 and prepared more than 50 different CRS products. The team sent out 5,300 copies of three "core" issue briefs (two on Medicare and one on Medicaid) and sent out 4,500 customized information packs as well. When Medicaid became an active issue in 1993, the CRS research team prepared a 1,127-page *Medicaid Source Book: Background Data and Analysis.*

CRS attorney Kathleen Swendiman said when Congress began holding hearings on health care fraud and abuse, she assisted congressional committee members and staffers from the beginning of the legislative process all the way through the conference committee and final passage. "After passage of the House and Senate Medicare bills, we were asked to prepare a side-by-side comparison of the more than 60 fraud and abuse provisions from both houses, along with a legal analysis of the provisions so that the differences could be resolved in conference. We met the quick turnaround deadline of 24 hours with a 40-page side-by-side comparson of the bills' provisions, a legal memorandum and copies of computer disks, so that staff could turn our materials into working papers for the conferees," Ms. Swendiman said.

Sen. Warner asked if the CRS team had noticed dramatic changes in the type or number of requests on Medicare and Medicaid.

"Over the past several years, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of requests," Mr. Price said. "The requests have become more complex as Congress thinks about changing details and technical components of the plans."

A second panel of CRS experts, led by Charles Hanrahan, senior specialist in agriculture policy, and Jean Jones, food and nutrition specialist and head of the Food and Agriculture Section of the Environment and Natural Resources Division, described CRS assistance during congressional deliberations on the 1996 farm bill. The panel also included: Ralph Chite, specialist in agriculture policy; Diane Duffy, legislative attorney; and Sandra Osbourn, specialist in American government.

Mr. Hanrahan said their challenge is to perform analytical work, explain the effects of proposals and keep track of all sides of the debate on the many complex, controversial and wide-ranging agricultural issues that are included in each farm bill — everything, he said, from food stamps and farm credit programs to food safety, cigarette taxes and the trade impact of NAFTA and GATT.

During debate on this session's farm bill, Ms. Jones said food and agriculture section analysts held more than 60 personal briefings with members of Congress, ran scores of briefings for congressional staffers, conducted 14 seminars on agricultural issues and held individual briefings for many state delegations. As all CRS staff do, they also answered requests over the phone, in writing and in person, offering confidential assessments of proposals.

During passage of the 1996 farm bill, Ms. Jones said, CRS finished analyses of the respective House and Senate versions within 24 hours of their passage.

At the end of the hearing, Sen. Warner said, "Over 60 percent of your [CRS] materials are delivered within 24 hours. If only the Congress worked with so much dispatch. . . . I commend all of you."

— by Edward Ohnemus

Edward Ohnemus is assistant editor of The Gazette.

Library Hosts Madison Award:

National Information Infrastructure Advisory Council Wins

The annual James Madison Award for 1996 was given to the National Information Infrastructure Advisory Council, comprising 36 members from business, entertainment, government, education, libraries and the nonprofit sector, during a March 15 ceremony at the Library.

The council worked for two years to develop models by which communities can achieve public access to government information and services over the Information Superhighway.

Delano Lewis, CEO and president of National Public Radio, who co-chaired the council with Ed McCracken, CEO and chairman of Silicon Graphics, accepted the award during the program.

The award was begun in 1989 by the Coalition on Government Information (CGI), founded by the American Library Association, to recognize outstanding efforts by an individual or groups who work to protect and promote public access to government information.

"Thanks to your efforts, issues of equity, universal service, citizen participation in government, access to government information and connectivity for all Americans were not forgotten as media giants fought for their stake in the communications future of tomorrow," said Nancy Kranich, chairperson of the CGI's Steering Committee.

"We did have a great time in those two years, and work has just begun, even though we are formally out of business," said Mr. Lewis, who was invited to co-chair the council by Vice President Albert Gore. In developing its report, *A Nation of Opportunity*, the council focused on five critical areas: universal access and services, privacy and security, intellectual property, education and lifelong learning, and electronic commerce. It also developed Operation Kickstart.

Yusef El-Amin

Yusef El-Amin

Delano Lewis, CEO of National Public Radio, accepts the James Madison award on behalf of NII from Nancy Kranich of the Coalition on Government Information of the American Library Association (ALA); Hiram Davis, senior adviser for staff training and transition, chats with Betty Turock, president of ALA.

"We spent a great deal of time reaching out to communities around this country, listening and learning," said Mr. Lewis. "The Operation Kickstart initiative is an illustration of practical ways to connect schools, libraries and community centers — and we put together blueprints for success." Two of those blueprints — the Maryland Sailor Project and the Seattle Public Library — are previous Madison Award winners.

The coalition also gave honorary citations to:

• The Library of Congress for its THOMAS system that makes congressional and other legislative in-

(Cont. on next page)

News from the National Digital Library:

Dr. Billington Addresses Electronic Publishers Meeting

Dr. Billington delivered the keynote address at "Exploring the New Media: Partnerships in Electronic Publishing," the second annual national electronic publishing seminar, held at the Library and the ANA Hotel March 14-16.

Cosponsored by the University of Virginia and the Library, the meeting was aimed at helping book, journal and other publishers form the partnerships necessary for successful multimedia and Internet publishing.

"Wdiscovered that everybody needs partnerships" in the new publishing environment, said Beverly Jane Loo, director of publishing and communications programs for the university.

Panels of specialists discussed such topics as "Content Comes First" and "The Future of Copyright in a Networked World," as well as the general theme of forming partnerships for marketing and publishing on-line publications.

The roster of speakers included: Marybeth Peters, register of copyrights for the U.S. Copyright Office; Bob Stein, president of the Voyager Co., a leading CD-ROM publisher; George A. Peterson, director of educational media for the National Geographic Society; Randi Benton, president of new media for Random House; and Eric Gagnon, president of Internet Media and author of *Business on the Internet*.

Excerpts of Dr. Billington's remarks follow:

It is appropriate that this meeting is being held at the Library of Congress. The idea of knowledge-based democracy, propounded and exemplified by Thomas Jefferson, the founder of this Library, is being threatened in our time in a peculiar fashion by the flood of information generated by the new technologies and by the relentless advance of the audiovisual, multimedia world. We talk about the Information Age, not the knowledge age. The first outline of a proposal sent to me by a legislator some years ago talked about the need for forming "nodal points of local information dissemination"; I picked up the phone and said, "These things already exist — they happen to be called libraries."

I am haunted by the thought that all this miscellaneous unsorted, unverified, constantly changing information on the Internet may inundate knowledge, may move us back down the evolutionary chain, back down from knowledge to information, from information to raw data. We may be falling away from, rather than rising up to, wisdom and creativity, those twin peaks that are humanity's highest intellectual attainments. Instead of a knowledge-based democracy, we may end up with an information-inundated demogogracy. Information itself is sometimes degraded into "infotainment" and "infomercials" and various other crudities, raising the problem of whether we can go on creating — let alone, making use of — knowledge.

The ideal of open access is in the first place threatened by the fact that this flood of information may have the unintended effect of dividing us into information "haves" and "have nots." This is a real and increasing threat not because anyone is trying to monopolize access to information

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ALA Award *(cont. from page 121)*

formation available free through the World Wide Web (http://www.thomas.gov/).

- Mike Tankersley of the Public Citizen litigation group, who led legal battles to gain access to government computerized information, including White House e-mail files.
- OMB Watch, the Unison Institute and the Bauman Family Foundation, sponsors of the Right to Know network for environmental information.
- Investigative reporters Donald Barlett and James Steele for their books *America: What Went Wrong?* and *America: Who Really Pays the Taxes?*
- The Consortium of Law Schools (Villanova, Emory, Cornell, Georgetown and Pace universities, the Turoro Law Center and Tarlton Law Library), which voluntarily provides the public with free Internet access to federal appellate court information and opinions.
- The National Security Archive and its director, Tom Blanton, who wrote a White House e-mail book after leading a legal battle to gain public access to the information.

The Madison Award was named after the fourth president, who championed individual rights and universal access to knowledge. This was the first time the awards ceremony took place at the Library's James Madison Memorial Building. However, CGI has always chosen the national observation of Madison's birthday, which is also Freedom of Information Day, to present awards.

Dr. Billington noted in welcoming members and honorees that as they entered the building they may have seen Madison's words etched on a wall. "Popular government without popular information or the means of acquiring it is but a farce, or a tragedy, or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance and people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power that knowledge gives."

—Kathleen Cassedy

Kathleen Cassedy is a free-lance writer working in the Public Affairs Office.

but simply because the costs and constraints faced by open, public institutions are such that more and more people will have to buy highly priced equipment and highly priced private services to get important information.

The communal nature of libraries is threatened by the growing notion that you can get everything you need in your own home, that you don't have to go anywhere to get anything. We already have the image of the lonely nerd sitting before the screen, slowly mutating from a normal human being into a kind of goggle-eyed extension of the screen and the keyboard. Lost is the idea of a gathering place in a community where people of different backgrounds seeking different answers still come together in a place which acquires meaning for the community as a whole. A place of real community, not virtual community. There is, in short, a threat to the concept of a center of knowledge, like a library, as a *place*.

And finally, the culture of television poses a long-term threat to the culture of serious reading and study. Even among the college-educated, television has already substituted a time-consuming passive spectator habit for the activity of reading; it has substituted mindless spurts of emotion for the train of thought on which the civilized use of the human intellect has always been based.

It seems to me that libraries, librarians, museums, museum-keepers, archivists, other keepers of the artifacts of culture, publishers and publishing houses all have important things to say about these threats. First of all, the flood of unsorted, unverified information will *not* replace knowledge in the country if librarians succeed in making their own transition from simply being information dispensers to becoming sophisticated knowledge navigators. At the same time, they need the assistance of electronic publishers who must employ the tools that are at hand or being developed to facilitate speedy, successful document navigation. But if that is all libraries, archivists, museums, and publishers do, we will not achieve what has traditionally been done to strengthen democracy and opportunity on a continental scale in a diverse society.

The very flood of unsorted information makes more important than ever the need to organize knowledge and provide ready navigation through it. The excessive specialization and use of guild jargon in academia combined with the deluge of unsorted, electronic information increases the need for discriminating knowledge navigators, both in schools and libraries, who will add the value of judgment and the warmth of human mediation to all this unintelligible material. Editorial houses must assist them, in turn, by providing these navigators with subtle navigation tools, new kinds of sextants and compasses for those who sail the seas of electronic information.

Words and sounds and images are being factored into zeroes and ones in the digitization process. These materials will, in a sense, be dehumanized even more unless they are re-humanized by the knowledge navigator.

Libraries as places will also be needed in the future because human mediation will be needed in locations where both the new technologically dispensed information and the old repositories of knowledge in books are present in the same place. There will need to be human mediation in a shared communal setting, where electronically dispensed information is linked with a storehouse of human memory, with human judgment and with the miscellaneous humanity of the community itself. The role of libraries, becomes more, not less, important.

— *Kristin Knauth*

Kristin Knauth is a free-lance writer/editor working in the Public Affairs Office.

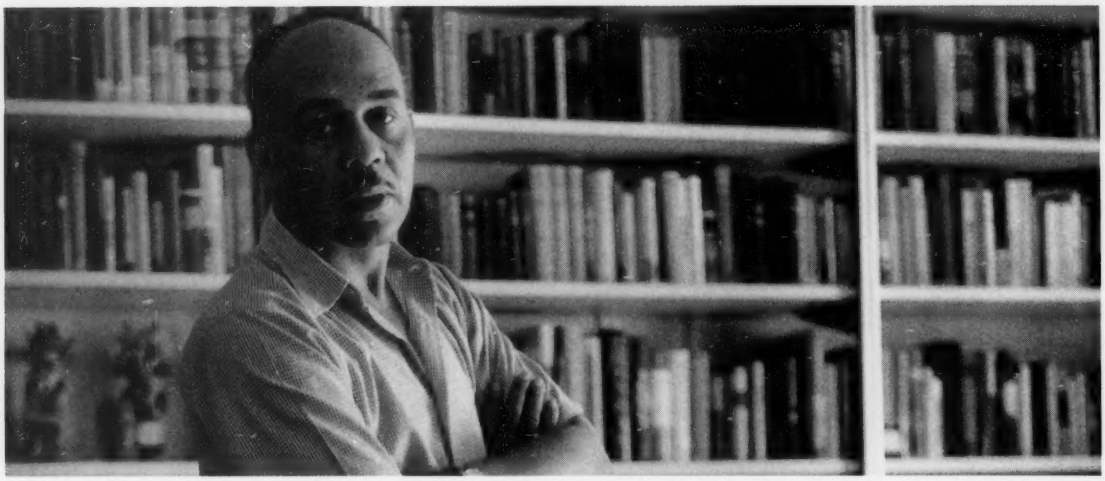
DRESDEN EXHIBIT OPENS APRIL 11

An exhibition of rare treasures from the Saxon State Library will open at the Library of Congress on April 11. "Dresden: Treasures from the Saxon State Library" will present a rich sampling of German and European history and culture from the High Middle Ages, Renaissance and Romantic periods.

The Saxon State Library began as a royal collection in Dresden, Germany, 440 years ago. The 185 treasures in this exhibition, which survived the Dresden fire bombings of World War II, were largely unavailable to Westerners during the 40 years that Saxony was under communist rule. They were chosen for their beauty, uniqueness and historical significance and include rare manuscripts, prints, maps, copper etchings, paintings and musical scores. Highlights include:

- Priceless manuscripts from the Middle Ages including literature by Horace and Ovid and Italian poets Petrarch and Boccaccio.
- The first German-language Bible, translated from the Latin by Martin Luther.
- Unique or original musical scores by Bach, Vivaldi, Schütz, Wagner and Schumann.
- An original letter by Goethe.
- Images from Dresden life, such as a staged hunt in the town square and a fancy dress procession.
- Original drawings of Dresden's baroque palaces and churches.

The exhibition is the result of four years of collaboration between the Saxon State Library and the Library of Congress. It closes on July 13. For those unable to see it in person, it is available on the World Wide Web at http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/dres



Ralph Ellison in his personal library, which will be permanently displayed in the Jefferson Building starting in 1997.

Visible Man:

Library Receives Ralph Ellison's Papers

by Bernice Tell

"One afternoon I wrote some words . . . and these words were 'I am an invisible man.' I didn't know quite what they meant, and I didn't know where the idea came from, but the moment I started to abandon them I thought: 'Well maybe I should try to discover exactly what lay behind the statement.'"

Thus began a seven-year enterprise that ended in the creation of a literary masterpiece.

The book is *Invisible Man*, and the writer, who died in 1994, is Ralph Ellison. In February 1996 Dr. Billington announced that over the next four years the Library will acquire the complete Ralph Ellison papers from his widow, Fanny McConnell Ellison. When reporting the acquisition, Dr. Billington said: "The preservation of his personal papers is a major event in 20th century cultural history. . . . By giving voice to the inarticulate invisible elements in American society, Ralph Ellison illustrated his belief that art and democracy are intertwined."

Ellison's rise — the struggle of a poor, fatherless youth who through talent and perseverance became a major literary figure — is the prototypical American success story. But instead of gaining material wealth, Ellison achieved artistic triumph.

Born in 1914 in Oklahoma City, the grandson of slaves, Ellison and his younger brother were raised by their mother, whose husband died when Ralph was three years old. His mother supported her young family by working as a nursemaid, a janitor and a domestic.

From an early age Ellison loved music and expected to be a musician and a composer. He played his first instrument — a cornet — at age eight. By 19, he had enrolled at Tuskegee Institute as a music major, playing the trumpet. Although drawn to jazz and jazz musicians, Ellison studied classical music and the symphonic form because he was looking forward to a career as a composer and performer of classical music.

In the summer of 1936, Ellison went to New York City to earn expenses for his senior year at Tuskegee. It was a fateful decision: He never returned to his studies at Tuskegee and never became a professional musician. "The morning after my arrival in New York," he said, "I encountered figures standing in the entrance of the Harlem YMCA, two fateful figures. They were Langston Hughes, the poet, and Dr. Alain Locke, the then head of the philosophy department at Howard University."

This chance encounter led ultimately to Richard Wright. "Hughes wrote Richard Wright that there was a young Negro something-or-the-other in New York who wanted to meet him," Ellison said. "The next thing I knew I received a postcard — which I still have — that said, 'Dear Ralph Ellison, Langston Hughes tells me that you're interested in meeting me.'"

When they first became acquainted, Ellison had every intention of re-

turning to Tuskegee. But the Great Depression prevented him from earning the needed funds. Ellison wrote: "Then, in talking with Wright, my plans and goals were altered; were, in fact, fatefully modified by Wright's."

The two young men had much in common and exchanged opinions on topics from politics to jazz to literature and everything in between.

During this period, Ellison had the opportunity to read Wright's first major piece, "Uncle Tom's Children," as each page emerged, literally, from the typewriter. Wright also was editing a new magazine, *New Challenge*, and he encouraged Ellison to write for it.

According to Ellison: "To one who had never attempted to write anything, this was the wildest of ideas. . . . Wright kept after me, and I wrote a [book] review and he published it. But then he went even further by suggesting I write a short story!

"I said, 'But I've never even tried to write a story. . . .'

"He said, 'Look, you talk about these things, you've read a lot and you've been around. Just put something down. . . .'"

The rest is history. Ellison remained in New York City and became a writer.

Although he always admired Wright's literary brilliance, Ellison never adopted or assumed Wright's political philosophy. (At that time Wright belonged to the Communist Party and was active in communist circles.) Ellison wrote: "Wright set out to come into a conscious possession of his experience as Negro, as political revolutionary, as writer and as citizen of Chicago."

Novelist Saul Bellow's 1995 description of Ellison differs markedly: "Unlike the majority of his Negro contemporaries [Ellison] was not limited in his interests to the race problem. He was an artist. It took great courage in a time when racial solidarity was demanded, or exacted, from people in public life, to insist as Ralph did on the priority of art and the independence of the artist."

Ellison's existence in New York was precarious. At times he slept in a park near City College because he could not afford lodgings.

Eventually he got a job doing research and writing for the New York Federal Writers Program, an offshoot of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). He also began writing essays and short stories for the *New Masses*, *The Negro Quarterly*, *The New Republic*, *Saturday Review* and other publications.

Interestingly, he has noted that such national disasters as the Great Depression have often led to "the possibility for a broader African American freedom. . . . For Negroes, a gift of freedom arrived wrapped in the guise of disaster. . . . The most tragic incident of our history, the Civil War, was a disaster which ended American slavery." And the Depression brought the WPA, which, in turn, "gave the African American cultural style an accelerated release and allowed many Negroes to achieve their identities as artists."

With the outbreak of World War II, Ellison joined the U.S. Merchant Marine as a cook, saw action in the North Atlantic and began to think of writing a major novel. However, not until after the war did he begin writing what was to become *Invisible Man*. Narrated by a nameless man, the novel is the story of a young African American and his many, often harrowing, adventures as he makes his way from the Deep South to Harlem and, ultimately, underground. The novel vividly demonstrates the effects of bigotry on the victimizer as well as the victim.

While working on his book, Ellison was concerned with "just why our Negro leadership was never able to enforce its will. Just what was there about the structure of American society that prevented Negroes from throwing up effective leaders? Thus it was no accident that the young man in my book turned out to be hungry and thirsty to prove to himself that he could be an effective leader."

While working on *Invisible Man*, Ellison read and reread classical Am-

Ellison relaxing in his apartment in New York City in the 1960s.

erican writers from Henry James to Walt Whitman. From them he learned that "the point or the universality of literature was to be relieved of the burden of interpreting all of life and its works in racial terms. . . . Therefore, for me personally, it was a matter of saying, 'I am going to learn how to write a novel; I will not ignore the racial dimensions at all, but I will put them into a human perspective.'"

He believed that "American society cannot define the role of the individual or at least not that of the *responsible* individual. For it is our fate as Americans to achieve that sense of self-consciousness through our own efforts."

In explaining his uniquely American vision of democracy, he wrote: "Relying upon race, class and religion as guides, we underestimate the impact of ideas and the power of life-styles and fashion to upset custom and tradition. . . . Such is the nature of freedom in our democracy that even shoeshine boys may criticize the life-styles and tastes of great entrepreneurs — which shoeshine boys are given to doing — and that they can also go to the library and read books which entrepreneurs *should* be reading but usually don't."

From the time *Invisible Man* first appeared in 1952, it was a popular and critical success. On the best-seller list for 16 weeks, in 1953 the novel won the National Book Award. And more than 40 years later, Nobel Prize winner Saul Bellow declared, "This book holds its own among the best novels of the century."

Invisible Man established Ellison as a serious and important literary figure, and he spent the next two years (1955-57) in Rome as a Fellow of the American Academy. He returned to the United States to teach at a variety of colleges and universities including Bard College, the University of Chicago, Rutgers, Yale and New York University, among others.

He always maintained his wide range of interests — from music, both classical and jazz, to sports, the theater and photography — and in 1964 he published *Shadow and Act*, a collection of essays on these and other subjects. Ellison has described the volume as an attempt "to relate myself to American life through literature." *Going to the Territory*, a subsequent collection of essays, lectures and criticism, appeared in 1986. For many years, Ellison worked on a second, long piece of fiction, but it has never appeared in print.

Ellison first spoke at the Library of Congress in 1964 when he delivered the Gertrude Clark Whittall Lecture; from 1966 to 1972, he served as the Library's Honorary Consultant in American Letters.

In later years, as a world-renowned literary figure, he received many honors and awards. In 1970 he received the Chevalier d'Ordre des Artes et Lettres, presented by André Malraux, then French minister of culture and a writer whom Ellison greatly admired. In 1985 Ellison received the National Medal of Arts.

After a short-lived first marriage, Ellison married Fanny McConnell in 1946. A devoted couple, they lived together in an apartment on Riverside Drive in New York City until Ellison died in April 1994. There were no children.

For more than 30 years the Library had been interested in Ellison's papers and had mounted a strong effort to acquire them. Even before Ellison gave his first lecture at the Library, John C. Broderick, then the cultural manuscript specialist and future head of the research department, met Ellison at an academic conference; later he wrote him a letter explaining the Library's interest. The Librarian Emeritus, Daniel J. Boorstin, a fellow Oklahoman and longtime friend of Ellison, also was interested in the acquisition.

Today, Alice Birney, the American literature specialist in the Manuscript Division, has responsibility for the papers. Upon completion of the terms of acquisition, the Library will receive approximately 140 cartons of various sizes containing manuscript drafts and notes for both published and unpublished works, speeches, correspondence, files, photographs and recordings and Ellison's entire working library.

Dr. Birney has made some interesting links to Library collections, such as the contextual connection between the papers of writers Shirley Jackson and her husband Stanley Edgar Hyman and letters they received from and sent to Ralph and Fanny Ellison. Among the other gems so far discovered is a receipt for Ellison's first musical instrument, the cornet, as well as correspondence dating back to the 1930s with such literary figures as Bellow, John Cheever and Robert Penn Warren.

As Ellison's papers are unpacked and organized, an archivist will prepare a "finding aid," an unpublished register that describes the material. Dr. Birney expects to write an essay on the Ellison papers to be included in the Manuscript Division's annual publication on acquisitions. She expects that preservation will be a primary consideration and is working to clarify the conditions under which the material will eventually be used.

Because modern paper contains such a high degree of acidity, legal pads, foolscap and newspapers can easily disintegrate. Dr. Birney must assure that necessary precautions are taken that could ultimately affect the mode of release of the documents. The Library may use what are termed "surrogates" instead of the more fragile originals; a research copy could be reproduced on archival-quality paper because it is stronger and can be handled more safely than the original.

In 1997 the general public will have the opportunity to view Ralph Ellison's "working library," which will be displayed in an alcove near the Great Hall of the Jefferson Building, in keeping with his wishes that it be housed in a unique institution that belongs to all Americans.

— Bernice Tell is a Washington freelance writer.

The Practical Use of Power:

Harvard Professor Lectures at LC on the Federalist *Papers*

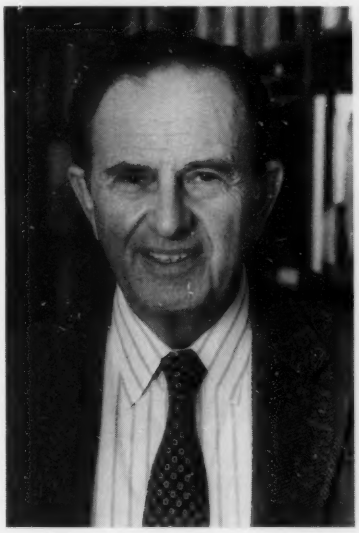
The words and the politics of Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay came alive again when Bernard Bailyn, Adams House Professor Emeritus of History at Harvard University, delivered a lecture on the *Federalist* papers to an overflow crowd in the Great Hall of the Northwest Pavilion of the Library's Jefferson Building.

Dr. Bailyn, who has taught at Harvard since 1949, is an acknowledged authority on early American history. The winner of two Pulitzers for history (*The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution* in 1968 and *Voyagers to the West* in 1987), as well as the National Book Award, he has authored or co-authored more than 25 books and numerous essays and articles.

Dr. Bailyn began his March 21 lecture by observing that many generations have believed that the 85 essays written between October 1787 and 1788, which make up the *Federalist*, are the finest expositions ever on the virtues of a federal system of government. He added — in what was to be a major focus of the discussion — "The *Federalist* papers are not a theoretical, but a practical, commentary on political power." Thomas Jefferson proclaimed the *Federalist* papers the best commentary on the history of government, superior to the writings of Aristotle, Machiavelli and Edmund Burke, among other political philosophers. (The Library holds Jefferson's annotated copy of the collected essays.)

This lecture, sponsored by the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation and the Library's Rare Book and Special Collections Division, was the second in the Library's series on great books that influence Western thought.

According to Dr. Bailyn, the *Federalist* papers were the result of a collaborative effort initiated by Hamilton, who was later joined by Madison and Jay. Because each man worked on his own treatise independently, there was no overall design for the papers or even an allocation of topics, so some repetition was inevitable. The authors' original purpose was to print the essays in a New York newspaper in an attempt to persuade the state of New York to approve the federal Constitution. Of the 85 papers that numbered 592 pages when published in two volumes, Hamilton wrote 51; Madison, 29; and Jay, 5.



Bernard Bailyn: The Federalists both embraced their revolutionary heritage and modernized it.

These three writers were neither political theorists nor philosophers, said Dr. Bailyn. "They were busy politicians" eager to push their political agenda. Ever on the go, Hamilton wrote some essays while traveling on a Hudson River sloop to Albany. Because each piece appeared in a New York newspaper almost as soon as it was written, Hamilton and Madison had to come up with an essay every three or four days, which meant each man was responsible for about 1,000 words per day. Under these tight deadlines, it is no wonder that some of the material came from other writings. Madison copied one essay directly from an earlier letter to Jefferson and from some notes he had made. Some essays printed as separate pieces were really parts of one long discourse. If read as a complete unit, for example, the 21 consecutive papers of Madison — 150 pages — are sequential pieces in a single work.

Despite such an unorthodox inception, generations of lawyers and scholars have approached the papers with near religious veneration. Although its authors lived in a much simpler, preindustrial world, the *Federalist* is a unique 18th century document that has remained instructive and prescriptive for the 21st century. In 59 cases, the Supreme Court has cited the *Federalist* in its decisions.

Dr. Bailyn explained that when public debate on ratification of the Constitution began, after its adoption by the Philadelphia convention on Sept. 17, 1787, the *Federalist* was only one of a multitude of political tracts and pamphlets on the scene. Many were polemical diatribes written in the heat of the moment. When the *Federalist* articles appeared over the pseudonym "Publius," they were challenged by other pieces written by anti-Federalists, including those by a powerful and intelligent essayist using the pseudonym "Brutus."

The central issue and, indeed, the overriding theme of the debate on the Constitution, according to Dr. Bailyn, was fear — fear of a tyrannical power. It was the 1780s, soon after the American Revolution, and some citizens felt that any unconstrained central power would impair their new freedoms. Many American

revolutionaries believed the Constitution, if ratified, would reverse the dynamics of the revolution. They thought a Constitution would result in the creation of a national government that would raise a standing army that might one day be used against them. In North Carolina, people even said that there was nothing in the Constitution to prevent a Roman Catholic pope from becoming president. Federalists responded that it was foolish to suppose an American citizen would go to Rome, be elected pope by the College of Cardinals and then decide to give up the job to become president.

However, Dr. Bailyn commented, some critics showed "an eerie prescience." "Brutus" predicted that the federal power to tax would permeate every phase of life — even to a tax on food on the table. Predicting the creation of a crushing national debt, "Brutus" lashed out against the federal government's borrowing authority. He opposed the Constitution's treaty-making power because it permitted a president to enter into secret treaties.

The anti-Federalists also feared that a six-year term of office for a senator would encourage a federal aristocracy. In addition, since the Constitution created a federal district whose residents would not have a vote but would be directly governed by Congress, such a district would become a "sanctuary of the blackest crimes," the headquarters of the national army and the home of federal workers who would use their power to trample on the rights of free men.

With such opposition, the great achievement of the *Federalist*, said Dr. Bailyn, was that its authors did not merely reply to the fears of their critics, but that they did so without repudiating their past and the American Revolution. The Federalists both embraced their revolutionary heritage and modernized it.

They wrote that the creation of a central government did not betray the revolution; rather it was the best means of assuring the nation's survival and protecting the people's liberty. Their arguments overcame the fear of a strong central power. They said the federal government originated as a creature of the states, and the states still retained many powers, including the power to elect their representatives. Responding to worries over a military threat, the Federalists argued that an official state militia could overwhelm a standing army. Hamilton also made the point that all military appropriations must be voted on by Congress, and the individual lawmakers would remain loyal to their state constituents.

The Federalists explained that under the Constitution neither the federal government nor the states would be sovereign, and such a balance of tensions offered the best protection from tyrannical rule and for individual freedom.

Dr. Bailyn said that Hamilton, Madison and Jay were successful in explicating the Constitution to a dubious nation because "they went *beyond* their basic range of thought to reach a level deeper and more original that what had come before. Although their purpose was not to create a formal treatise, in order to present their case, they devised new formulations and fresh visions regarding the use of political power."

Their goal was to convince the populace that the Constitution was the best means of preserving private rights. And they proved that two levels of power — state and national — could co-exist.

"The Constitution, for all its imperfections, is a sensitive instrument," possessing detail, clarity and a shrewd awareness of the dangers of power, concluded Dr. Bailyn. The *Federalist* remains relevant today because its authors "sought to preserve national rights within a stable society." These men were "conservators of radical principles, and we share their cautious optimism."

— Bernice Tell

Bernice Tell is a free-lance writer working in the Public Affairs Office.

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Information Bulletin 84LC01

American Folklife Center Staffer Wins Grant

Scientist Will Conduct Appalachian Forest Research

In December 1995 the Fund for Folk Culture, a private foundation based in Santa Fe, N.M., awarded American Folklife Center staffer Mary Hufford a $15,000 grant to document the relationship between culture and the forest on the Coal River in southern West Virginia. Since 1993, Dr. Hufford has been consulting with the Lucy Braun Association for the Mixed Mesophytic Forest regarding the cultural implications of forest deterioration on the Allegheny Plateau.

Lucy Braun, a pioneering ecologist, coined the term "mixed mesophytic" to describe what scientists now regard as the biologically richest temperate-zone hardwood system in the world. In collaboration with science writer John Flynn — a native of the region who coordinates the Lucy Braun Association's Appalachia Forest Action Project — and in consultation with dozens of area residents, Dr. Hufford has been developing a profile of this diverse forest's role in community life over the past 150 years.

The 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act form a partial backdrop for this project. As Dr. Hufford explains: "Scientists are linking forest deterioration with soil acidification caused by airborne toxins — including sulfates, nitrous oxide and ground-level ozone. And standards set by that law for sulphur emissions have fostered a booming market for Central Appalachia's low-sulphur bituminous coal. Because mountaintop removal is the predominant method of retrieving this coal, thousands of acres of forest habitat are being transformed by the excavation of coal as well as by sulfates airborne from utility plants on the Ohio and Tennessee rivers. This forest transformation depletes the habitat required for commercially valuable species like ginseng and a host of hardwoods that thrive in the rich unglaciated soils of the Appalachian coves."

Dr. Hufford's collaboration with the scientists, foresters, environmentalists and local communities cooperating in this effort grows out of her long-standing interest in folklife and environmental policy.

"In national news coverage of environmental crises," wrote Dr. Hufford, "the argument is often made that environmental protection costs jobs. . . . [But opinions heard on Coal River constitute] a missing perspective in the national environmental debate. Shifting toward ecosystem management, the U.S. Forest Service grapples with the question of where humans fit into ecosystems. The challenge is to create environmental policy that registers local as well as national and global concerns."

Lyntha Eiler, AFC

In October 1995 Mary Hufford interviewed Randy Halstead, who buys and sells a variety of forest products. By far the most valuable are the wild ginseng roots (shown), which are worth around $450 a pound dried. Ginseng thrives in the rich soils of the Central Appalachian coves.

The grant, administered through Trees for the Planet Inc., will support Dr. Hufford's travel as well as in-depth photo documentation by Terry and Lyntha Eiler of the seasonal round of forest-related activities, including the annual ramp festival held each spring, the gathering and processing of wild greens, berries and nuts from more than a dozen hardwood species, the hunting of mushrooms, game and ginseng in the fall and associated narratives, music and leisure activities. Of particular importance is the forest's value as a threshold to the past and a resource for cultural identity. The photographs and related tape recordings will be added to the collections of the Archive of Folk Culture, and plans are under way to produce a CD-ROM and related publications based on the collection.

— James Hardin

James Hardin is a writer-editor in the American Folklife Center.

January 31,1945

Miss Hannah Leah Rose
Box 279
Suffolk,Va.

Dear Hannah Leah:

I was very much pleased with your letter. There is kindness,humility and an upright spirit in it which so often goes together with loyalty to our people.

Thanks and kind wishes,

yours sincerely,

A. Einstein

Albert Einstein.

Donald Panzera, chief of the Exchange and Gift Division, holds the framed letter from Albert Einstein that Mrs. Gerald Aurbach donated to the Library as Mrs. Aurbach and Imre Jarmy, assistant chief of the Exchange and Gift Division, discuss its history; the letter from Einstein that was donated

Library Receives Einstein Letter

On Feb. 7 Hannah Aurbach presented the Library with her gift of a framed letter to her from Albert Einstein.

Donald P. Panzera, chief of the Exchange and Gift Division, accepted Mrs. Aurbach's donation, for addition to the national manuscript collections. In 1994 Mrs. Aurbach gave the Library a collection of six historic maps in memory of her husband, Gerald D. Aurbach.

The note, possibly typed as well as having been signed by Einstein, is not the learned opinion on a question of physics or mathematics that one might expect. It is instead a personal and charming reply to Mrs. Aurbach, who, as a child named Hannah Leah Rose collecting autographs during World War II, had written to the great scientist to express her admiration for his "humility, kindness and loyalty" to the Jewish people.

Einstein's response, addressed to Miss Hannah Leah Rose, reads: "Dear Hannah Leah, I was very much pleased with your letter. There is kindness, humility and an upright spirit in it which so often goes together with loyalty to our people. Thanks and kind wishes, yours sincerely, A. Einstein."

Braille Competency Test Being Validated

The National Literary Braille Competency Test (NLBCT) was developed by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in collaboration with leading organizations promoting the use of braille. It is intended primarily to allow teachers of blind children and adults to demonstrate a basic knowledge of braille. The test has been in use since May 1994.

Plans are now underway to conduct a validation study of the test, beginning this spring. A statement of work is in process, and a contract will be awarded in May.

The study is expected to take two years. First a validation study of the overall test will be done, including a job analysis and an assessment of the conditions under which the test is administered. In the job analysis, teachers, supervisors and subject matter experts will examine the task of teaching braille. The information from this analysis will be compared with the current test and recommendations will be made, if indicated, for changes in the content of the test. Conditions that may be looked at include organization of the test, number and order of parts, time frame, use of reference materials, special accommodations for low-vision candidates and test/re-test interval. The validation study will be followed by a reliability study, including an analysis of the four versions of the test as modified by the validation study.

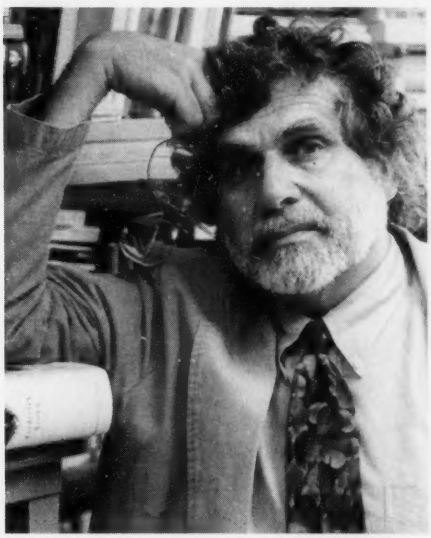
Through September 1995, 224 tests have been taken, with 46 candidates (20.5%) passing. Twenty-six states have been represented among the candidates.

For additional information about the NLBCT, contact the Braille Development Section, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20542, or call 1-800-424-8567.

News from the Center for the Book:

Center Becomes Producer of 'Sound of Writing' NPR Series

In January the Center for the Book became the "on-the-air" sponsor and producer of "The Sound of Writing: America's Short Story Magazine of the Air," a National Public Radio (NPR) series hosted by writer and NPR literary critic Alan Cheuse. Broadcast on more than 100 NPR affiliates nationwide, each 30-minute program features readings of two original short stories.



George Mason University

NPR literary critic Alan Cheuse hosts "The Sound of Writing," featuring readings of short stories.

"We will use our new involvement with 'The Sound of Writing' to stimulate interest nationwide in reading, literacy and in the short story itself," said Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole. "For example, through our network of affiliated state centers, we hope to develop community programming that makes creative use of the broadcasts, cassette tapes and the texts of the stories. The Florida Center for the Book is currently developing project ideas, and we are inviting other centers and organizations to join with us. We also are developing plans for a national Friends of the Sound of Writing support group."

Launched in cooperation with NPR in 1987, the "The Sound of Writing" is distributed as part of the "NPR Playhouse." Until this year "The Sound of Writing" was sponsored and produced by the Syndicated Fiction Project, which has ceased operation.

Writers whose stories are included in the current series of "The Sound of Writing" programs are Sherman Alexie, Rick Bass, Charles Baxter, T. Coraghessan Boyle, Ron Carlson, Josephine Carson, Elena Castedo, Fred Chappell, R.H.W. Dillard, John Dufresne, Brian Evenso, Herbert Gold, Githa Hariharan, Christopher Ross Hodgdon, Louis Jenkins, Ursula K. Le Guin, E. Ethelbert Miller, Lewis Nordan, Joyce Carol Oates, Paul Riffin, Rolando Hinojosa Smith, Sharon Solwitz, Elizabeth Spencer and Wakako Yamauchi.

Two anthologies of short stories produced for the project have been published, and a third is being prepared. *The Sound of Writing: America's Short Story Magazine of the Air*, edited by Caroline Marshall and Alan Cheuse, was published in 1991 by Doubleday/Anchor Books; *Listening to Ourselves: More Stories from the Sound of Writing*, also edited by Ms. Marshall and Mr. Cheuse and published by Doubleday/Anchor, appeared in 1994. Both are available in the Library's Sales Shop; call (202) 707-0204 for information. The third anthology is being edited by Alan Cheuse and Dallas Hudgens.

❑ **April 16 Is Preservation Awareness Day.** The Preservation Directorate and the Center for the Book are sponsoring a preservation awareness workshop in the Madison Building's Mumford Room from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 16. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions about preserving and storing family treasures and to see live demonstrations of gold tooling, paper mending, book sewing and matting and hinging of works of art on paper. Conservationists and other specialists from the Library's staff will provide advice and information about the handling, cleaning and storage of books, papers and documents, fine prints, photographs, compact disks, sound recordings and motion picture film.

In addition, nonprofit professional associations in the preservation field and companies that manufacture and distribute conservation products will be on hand to answer questions and offer information on preservation products and issues.

The emphasis in the workshop, which is part of the Library's celebration of National Library Week, is on the preservation and storage of books and other materials; evaluation and assessment services will not be offered or available.

❑ **1996 "Letters About Literature" Contest.** More than 14,000 entries were received this year in the annual Center for the Book/*Read* magazine

"Letters About Literature" project. A student enters the contest by writing a letter of 1,000 words or less to a favorite author, explaining how that author's book changed the student's outlook on life. The grand prize winner will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, which includes a visit to the Library of Congress on May 9. In addition, nine national finalists will receive $100 cash awards. Cash prizes of $100 will also be awarded to state winners by the 19 state centers participating in the contest: Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Vermont, Virginia and Wisconsin.

❑ **California Literary Landscapes Discussed.** In conjunction with the Library of Congress traveling exhibit "Language of the Land: Journeys into Literary America," on Sept. 30, 1995, the California Center for the Book sponsored "Images of California," a discussion with four literary historians from the Golden State: Forrest G. Robinson, Robert J. Brophy, Gerald Haslam and James D. Houston.

Held in Sacramento in the California State Capitol, the program was moderated by California State Librarian Kevin Starr. Other sponsors were the California State Library Foundation, the California State Library, the California State Capitol Museum and the State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association.

The "Language of the Land" traveling exhibit was on view in the State Library on Aug. 17-Oct. 6, 1995. The exhibit and the Sept. 30 presentations were made possible by a grant to the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund. Two accompanying exhibits were presented by the California State Library: "John Steinbeck and Jack London, Two California Writers" and "Novels and Stories of California." They drew on the State Library's incomparable collection, which panelist James Houston described as "the biggest collection of California fiction on earth."

The four Sept. 30 presentations, with illustrations and discussion, have been published in the January 1996 issue of *California State Library Foundation Bulletin*. The papers are:

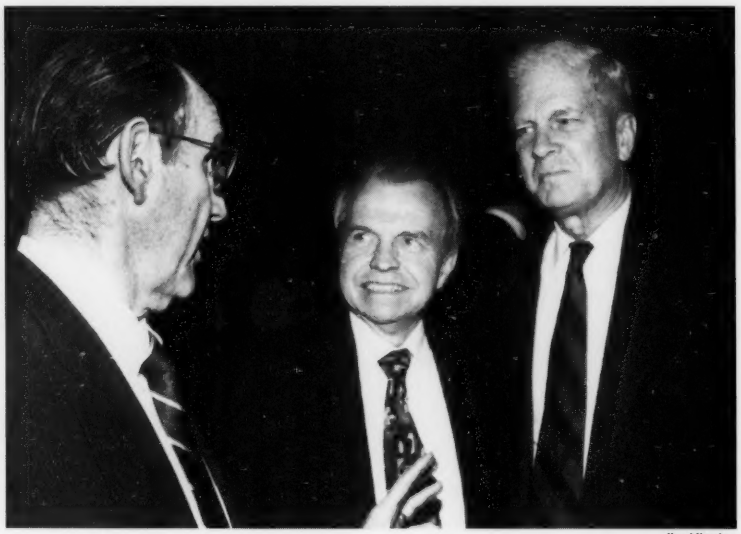
"Mark Twain's Mining Frontier: California and Nevada in the 1860s," by Forrest G. Robinson; "William Everson and Archetype West, by Robert J. Brophy; "Voices from the Heartland: Cultural Diversity in the Great Central Valley," by Gerald Haslam; and "From El Dorado to the Pacific Rim: An Overview of Themes in California's Fiction," by James D. Houston.

For information about the *Bulletin* and the activities of the California Center for the Book, write or call the California State Library Foundation, 1225 Eighth St., Suite 345, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 447-6331.

❑ **Center Cosponsors AAP Reception at LC.** More than 150 publishers came to the Library on March 13 for a reception marking the opening of the annual meeting of the Professional and Scholarly Publishing Division of the Association of American Publishers. The event, which was held in the Jefferson Building's Great Hall, was cosponsored by AAP and the Center for the Book.

Dr. Billington greeted the publishers and spoke about cooperative efforts between the publishing community and the Library of Congress, including support for the activities of the Copyright Office and the Center for the Book. In describing the Jefferson Building as a "temple of the book," he described the printer's marks that were inscribed in the second floor Great Hall ceilings in 1893-1896, as the building neared completion.

In particular, he pointed out the marks representing eight American publishers and printers on the north side. The firms represented are: D. Appleton & Co.; the Devinne Press; Charles Scribner's Sons; Harper and Bros.; the Riverside Press; the Century Co.; J.B. Lippincott Co.; and Dodd, Mead and Co.



Jim Higgins

Nicholas Veliotes, president of the Association of American Publishers (AAP), chats with John Cole and Dr. Billington at the annual meeting of the Professional Scholarly Publishing Division of AAP.

East Greets West:

1996 Soros Interns Arrive at Library

On March 5, the Library officially welcomed 11 librarians from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union as interns in the Soros Foundations-Library of Congress Librarian Intern Program.

The three-month program, which is co-sponsored by the Regional Library Program of the Open Society Institute (a Budapest-based Soros Foundation), supersedes the Visiting Fellows Program, which ended in 1995 after training 38 people in three years. The new program shares its predecessor's goal of training participants to promote open information access in their home countries, as an essential feature of democratization.

However, the new program is original in two ways: First, it is designed specifically to promote Internet training and access. The interns will spend their first month at LC, receiving Internet training as well as general orientation and management training.

Second, 10 local institutions have agreed to host the interns for eight weeks, starting in April. The host institutions will provide training, work experience and Internet access. Moreover, the interns will be able to observe firsthand how libraries in a democratic society serve their constituencies.

The interns also will receive a week of field experience at the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

In a reception in the Madison Building's West Dining Room, many of the 11 interns met their LC hosts for the first time, as well as representatives from the host institutions.

Larisa Sviridova, chief librarian of the Novosibirsk Regional Library in Russia, chatted with Mary Randolph, deputy director of the Alexandria Library in Alexandria, Va. "We are just introducing automation," Ms. Sviridova volunteered about her own library. "I expect it to be much more sophisticated here."

Marek Krosniak, head of the Jagellonian University Astronomical Observatory Library in Krakow, Poland, listened as his host — Brenda Corbin, head librarian of the U.S. Naval Observatory — explained her plans to take him to astronomical libraries in Baltimore and Charlottesville, Va., as well as the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md.

The Jagellonian astronomical library is just beginning to automate a collection that is over 200 years old, Mr. Krosniak said.

"The Library of Congress has a very similar system. I can see how our problems are being solved here."

Mr. Krosniak also hopes his visit helps him prove to his superiors that his library needs more staff to handle the automation. Like libraries nearly everywhere, the Jagellonian library suffers from staff shortages, he admitted.

Sally McCallum, chief of the Network Development and MARC Standards Office, welcomed the guests on Dr. Billington's behalf.

Librarians all over the world have the same mission and services, Ms. McCallum commented. "Our profession can always have a common dialogue," she said. "I can visit libraries in Moscow or Latvia, and they're the same as ours.

"Where we differ is in our methods. That's what the Soros Foundation is interested in having us share."

The class of 1996 and its host institutions are: Ludmila Adamirova, Central Food Library, Institute of Agricultural and Food Information, Prague, Czech Republic (National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, Md.); Evgenia Ivanova-Batzelova, Medical University Library, Plovdiv, Bulgaria (National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Md.); Maris Jaagosild, Estonian National Museum, Tartu, Estonia (Library of Congress, American Folklife Center); Natalya Kovaloya, Byelorussian Cartographic and Geodetic Association, Minsk, Belarus (National Archives II, Cartographic and Architectural Branch, College Park, Md.); Marek Krosniak, Astronomical Observatory Library, Jagellonian University, Krakow, Poland (Naval Observatory Library, Washington, D.C.); Doina Lica, Romanian Academy Library, Timisoara, Romania (National Gallery of Art Library, Washington, D.C.); Edite Muizniece, Latvian Academic Library, Riga, Latvia (University of Maryland, McKeldin Library, College Park, Md.); Jaroslav Susol, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia (Catholic University of America, Mullen Library, Washington, D.C.); Larisa Sviridova, Novosibirsk Regional Library, Novosibirsk, Russia (Alexandria Library, Alexandria, Va.); Daniela Toth, George Baritiu (Public) Library, Brasov, Romania (Arlington County Central Library, Arlington, Va.); and Elektra Tsigaridas, National and University Library, Ljubljana, Slovenia (George Washington University, Gelman Library, Washington, D.C., and Library of Congress, Science and Technology Division).

— Kristin Knauth

Kristin Knauth is a free-lance writer/editor working in the Public Affairs Office.

CORRECTION

In the March 4, 1996, issue of the *Information Bulletin*, the photo on page 80 depicting an illumination from the Jewish *Holy Day Prayer Book* was mistakenly printed in reverse.

News from the Copyright Office:

Office Co-Hosts Intellectual Property Rights Conference

The Copyright Office, together with the Interactive Multimedia Association, co-hosted "Electronic Commerce for Content," a conference on technology-based solutions to managing rights for digital information, on March 7 at the Crystal City Sheraton in Arlington, Va.

More than 100 representatives from clearinghouses, licensing agents, rights societies and collectives, on-line providers, developers, library groups, associations and government agencies attended and commented on the issues involved in developing an inter-industry framework for intellectual property management.

The goal of the conference was to bring together interested groups with broad participation from industry, content owners and users to help identify requirements for intellectual property management systems for digitized works. This is especially important since most secure systems are currently proprietary and incompatible with each other.

Participants in the conference explored the principal approaches to developing open and distributed management systems and services including surveying practices and plans for identifying, labeling and registering digital objects.

Associate Register for National Copyright Programs Mary Levering made a presentation on the status of the digital registration and deposit system known as CORDS (Copyright Office Electronic Registration, Recordation and Deposit System) (see LC *Information Bulletin*, March 4). The conference helped provide a basic understanding of the technological and strategic environment in which all the participating groups will be operating in the future.

Register of Copyrights Marybeth Peters, said, "It is essential for owners of all types of copyrightable works to focus on the development of mutually compatible and centralized mechanisms for efficient and cost-effective licensing of their products. Unless this takes place, the basic goals of copyright protection, namely adequate protection for copyright owners balanced with the legitimate needs of users, will not be achieved in the emerging digital networks."

In addition to the Copyright Office, organizations making presentations at the conference included the Association of American Publishers, the Copyright Clearance Center, the Corporation for National Research Initiatives, the Electronic Rights Management Group of IIA, IBM, the Interactive Multimedia Association, the Information Infrastructure Standards Panel/ANSI, and the World Wide Web Consortium, among others.

❑ **Copyright Office Serves Public with Fax-on-Demand.** Frequently requested Copyright Office circulars and announcements are now available by fax. Call (202) 707-2600.

The system hardware is located in the Publications Section of the Information and Reference Division. Assistant Division Chief Jim Cole provides overall supervision of fax-on-demand. Information Specialist Richard Anderson is the system administrator and Information Specialist Ed Rogers is the backup.

To receive a document from the new system, a caller keys in his or her fax number and the document number(s) of the requested items at the prompt. The item(s) will then be transmitted to the receiving fax machine. Any fax machine can be used. Document numbers may be obtained by requesting a menu by fax. Three items at a time may be ordered.

So far the most popular item has been ML-514, "Registration of Claims to Copyright, Group Registration of Photographs."

Note that copyright application forms are not available by fax.

❑ **Copyright Application Forms Now Available on the Internet.** All Copyright Office application forms are now available on the Internet from the Copyright Office's home page at http://www.loc. gov/copyright. They may be downloaded and printed for use in registering a claim to copyright or for use in renewing a claim to copyright. In addition, the format for filing a Notice of Intent to Enforce (NIE) a copyright restored under the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA) is also available on the Internet.

Adobe Acrobat Reader must be installed to view and print the forms. The free Adobe Acrobat Reader may be downloaded from Adobe Systems Inc. through links from the same Internet site at which the forms are available.

—Judith Nierman

Judith Nierman is a writer-editor in the Copyright Office.

Anaïs Nin (1903-1977)

"Proceed from the dream outward." Anaïs Nin took this dictum of Carl Jung's to heart: with the encouragement of world-renowned analysts René Allendy and Otto Rank, she voyaged through her unconscious mind to create a "continuous novel" that is both highly personal and universally feminine. Daughter of a Spanish composer and a French-Danish singer, Nin was born in Paris but brought to America when she was nine. She returned to Paris in 1923 after marrying Hugh Guiler, a banker whose stability and money made possible her nascent literary efforts—and those of Henry Miller, whose secret lover and champion she was. Nin captured in her dreamlike prose the sexual and artistic ferment of bohemian Paris and, later, of Greenwich Village. Although early in her career she established her reputation with "antinovels" like *The House of Incest* (1936) and *Winter of Artifice* (1939), as well as a series of short works of erotica, it was her seven-volume *Diary* of that earlier epoch that brought Nin international fame. Not published until 1966–1978, the *Diary* provides a selective portrait of her associates; excerpts from it, published separately as *Henry and June*, delineate the fragility of human relations. Miller placed Nin's *Diary* "beside the revelations of St. Augustine, Petronius, Abelard, Rousseau, Proust."

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Poet Gwendolyn Brooks, a former Libary of Congress consultant in poetry; Knowledge Card profile of Anäis Nin; Rebecca West, journalist and literary critic

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Knowledge Cards are an educational tool whose colorful introductions to authors and their works are likely to inspire followup reading. They can be purchased for $9.95 per deck from the Library's Sales Shop or by calling (202) 707-0204.

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